

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 16 and 17 are withdrawn. Claims 1-15 and 18-20 are under examination and stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

Claim 1 stands objected to for a typographical error. In response, Applicants have amended the claim, changing the phrase “at last one tag” to “at least one tag”. Applicants submit the objection to claim 1 should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-15 and 18-20 stand rejected to as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over Wagner et al. (WO 2001/72458) in view of Bosman et al. (WO 1999/00670), Barner et al. (US 5986066), Badley et al. (US 6294391) and Nelson et al. (US 5955729). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that Wagner et al. relate to heterofunctional cross-linking reagents having a specific formula. These may be attached to a solid support. The attachment to the solid support of the compounds having the specific formula is accomplished by covalent bonds, see page 6, lines 3-11. Thus unlike the claimed invention, the attachment to solid support in Wagner et al. does not include the interaction between a tag on the protein and a tag binder.

Wagner et al. further teach that a protein containing a tag can be attached to the cross-linking reagent via a tag binder on the reagent, and the protein can be covalently bonded to reactive groups on the cross-linking reagent. However, it is clear that the protein (biomolecules) in Wagner et al. is attached indirectly, via the cross-linking reagent to a solid support.

In the present invention the solid support immobilization substrate is provided with tag binding sites and activated reactive groups, see claim 1. Covalent bonds are formed between these reactive groups and the biomolecule(s) bound to the tag binding sites. Thus, the biomolecule(s) are bound by two different binding entities on the solid support: the tag binder and the reactive group, respectively.

Applicants submit that none of the other references provide or suggest additional information which could be combined with Wagner et al. to lead to the claimed invention. Nothing in Wagner et al. or the other references teach or suggest a method as claimed, namely immobilizing a biomolecule to a substrate having both tag binding sites and activated reactive groups. A person skilled in the art would not have been able to come across the claimed invention without learning from the teaching of Applicants' specification. Impermissible hindsight is applied.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 1-15 and 18-20.

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Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

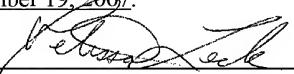
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